

News of this Command.

THE FALL OF FERNANDINA.

Our account of the capture of Fernandina is necessarily incomplete; no military details can be furnished in these columns, of any recent movement.

On the 1st of March the combined national force appeared off Fernandina. The entrance to the harbor lies between two islands, Amelia and Cumberland; at this point is situated Fort Clinch, an unfinished casemated work, with one tier of guns which had never been mounted when the place was seized by the Rebels a year ago. Two or three miles further in, on the southern side of Cumberland Sound, is Fernandina; on the same side but nearer to Fort Clinch, lies Old Fernandina; the population of both places together does not amount to more than ten or twelve hundred.

Batteries had been erected by the Rebels all along the Sound, and in various other positions commanding the approach. On the 2d of March, the field batteries were found to be completely abandoned, while at nearly the same time it was discovered that even Fort Clinch had been evacuated. The enemy had fled without firing a gun. Fourteen heavy pieces were left behind, all of them spiked, and numerous others seemed to have been carried off; probably as many as forty or fifty; the number is by some even estimated as high as eighty or ninety. The whole garrison, calculated to be 5000 strong, had also decamped, and the population of the town was hurrying off in railroad cars; a few shells stopped the train; some of the passengers took to the woods, and escaped; among them, it is said, was Senator Yulee; most of them, however, were brought back. They were principally women and children, and returned to their homes; some were unwilling, but many expressed no dissatisfaction.

The population that remains represents that the Rebels had fled on the day subsequent to the appearance of our fleet, and that the town was to be burnt within the next twenty-four hours. They declare that the place was evacuated under orders from Richmond, it having been determined to abandon the entire coast. They also assert that our arrival there has been anticipated since last December.

The prompt flight without the shadow of an attempt at resistance, indicates any thing but the chivalric and desperate behavior we have been taught to expect; and none of the unwillingness to receive the old National authority, which has been lately inculcated by the so called government of the Rebels. If the victory was bloodless it was none the less important, and affords a sure indication that one of two circumstances exists; either a revulsion in the Southern feeling, originating in the recent National successes at the West; or an extension of the panic which has begun there even to this the opposite side of the continent.

PORT ROYAL.

The steamer Mississippi, from Fortress Monroe, with Gen. Butler aboard and a body of reinforcements for his command, got aground on Frying Pan Shoals, on Friday morning, the 28th inst., in sight of Cape Fear. Her anchor was immediately cast and she struck on it, knocking such a hole in her bottom as to cause a serious injury. Accordingly she put into this port on the 2nd inst., having been obliged to keep men at her pumps constantly after the accident. She went direct to Seabrook, where the troops under Gen. Butler were encamped. On the 11th she was so far repaired as to be got off, but ran aground again within a few hundred yards of Seabrook Landing. The Captain is named Fulton, and a Southerner by birth; he has been placed under arrest. Gen. Butler, his staff and a portion of his force proceeds to their destination on the Matanzas, loaned for that purpose, by Gen. Sherman. The Mississippi, which has been again got off, conveys the remainder of her original complement. Colonels Neal Dow, Dudley and Gooding are with Gen. Butler; Mrs. Butler also accompanies the General. The health of the forces is good.

The Delaware was the last steamer for New York; she carried no mail, as there were doubts of her seaworthiness. The first news of the fall of Fernandina was conveyed North by her, other than that contained in Com. Dupont's despatches direct by the Alabama, which left on the 4th inst.

The Atlantic arrived at this port on the 7th inst., bringing a mail and New York papers up to the 3d inst. Among her passengers was Mrs. General Stevens. The Atlantic will probably return on the 17th, carrying a mail. This favorite vessel is of as much importance

to the service as if employed in the more technical departments of the army or navy, and if strictly attached to either arm, could hardly be more efficiently worked.

Col. Fellows, now in command of this post, has his head quarters in the long line of buildings recently put up for officers' quarters immediately to the rear of Gen. Sherman's staff camp. The adjutant of the post will transact all his official business at that place.

Since the 1st of January over 300,000 letters have been received or sent from the Port Royal post office.

A General Court Martial has been sitting for several days past at Hilton Head, of which Col. R. Williams, of the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry, is president, and Capt. L. H. Pelouze, A. A. Adjutant General, is judge advocate. Several important cases were tried before it; one was that of an infantry captain advising a sick private to desert; and another the heinous offense of a sentinel sleeping on post; both punishable with death. The decision of the court is not yet announced.

LATER FROM CHARLESTON.

The Rebel schooner Shamrock was captured on the 10th in the Dawho River, near Edisto; a Charleston Courier of the 5th was aboard, from which we learn the following items:

The mayor proclaims that no person is allowed to leave the city without a pass.

The Governor (Brown) of Georgia recommends cotton growers to plant no cotton this year.

The British vessel Rinaldo communicated with Fort Sumter on the 4th inst., sending despatches to Bunce, the consul.

An advertisement announces no freight received at the railroad depot for the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad.

The Rebel steamer Nashville ran the blockade off Beaufort, N. C., on the 28th of February, at day-break, the stars and stripes at her peak and the old private signal at her main; when she got close enough to lay her course for the channel, the National flag was hauled down, and the stars and bars hoisted fore and aft. The blockader fired twenty-one shots, but all fell short. The Nashville ran in under Fort Macon, at the rate of fourteen knots.

The Nashville brought no arms, greatly to the dissatisfaction of the rebels.

The following is the account, in the Savannah Republican, of the fall of Fernandina:

"A dispatch received here yesterday, states that the enemy has landed on Cumberland Island, and sent a detachment to occupy the town of Fernandina. Most of the citizens abandoned the place some weeks ago, and the military was withdrawn from Amelia Island, on which Fernandina is situated, about two days since; consequently no resistance was offered. If the enemy should not burn the place, they are welcome to it, as they will reap but little benefit from its possession."

TYBEE.

Gen. Gilmore is now in command of the troops on Tybee Island.

A daily line of communication is established between Hilton Head and Tybee. Capt. Fuller, Assistant Quartermaster on Gen. Sherman's staff, has been recently detailed for duty at Tybee.

EDISTO.

A daily express line now connects North Edisto and Otter Point with Hilton Head.

BEAUFORT.

At the review, last week, General Sherman and his staff were present, Gen. Stevens, in command at Beaufort, with his staff, of course receiving the reviewing officer. Quite a number of civilians, clerks and others, were present, and one or two ladies even looked on the unusual sight of Federal troops reviewed on the soil of South Carolina. Some of the officers of Gen. Butler's staff were also among the spectators; while in the background the negroes congregated, staring in wonder and admiration at the show. The day was favorable, and the troops acquitted themselves more than creditably at this, the first formal review which has occurred at the Newport of the South, since Gen. Drayton left it for Hilton Head, about the 1st of last November.

Mr. Pierce and the Rev. Mr. French, the two gentlemen to whom the care of the negroes in this command has been committed, arrived at Hilton Head by the Atlantic, bringing with them a party of instructors and agents to assist in the performance of the novel and various duties about to be assumed. Twelve of the teachers are young ladies. The whole party left immediately for Beaufort, where their head quarters will be established. Mr. Pierce is to supervise the general management of the blacks in their ordinary labors, and Mr. French, the educational and religious instruction to be imparted.

DAWFUSKIE.

Notwithstanding the extraordinary hardships and exposures to which they have been subjected, the troops at Dawfuskie, under Gen. Viele's command are in a good state of health. Any thing more difficult than dragging heavy guns through the mud and mire of these swampy islands, has not been attempted during the war. The danger of interruption from the enemy was of course great, and the labor had all to be done

by night. The work was really an achievement and deserves to be so noted. The Rebels admit that it secured the blockade of the Savannah; but they will not acknowledge the batteries to be any thing but floating ones. It would not be politic to tell their own people what difficulties were trampled upon by the Yankees so close to Savannah and Pulaski. -It would be manifestly improper to state the forces at these places; Major Beard of the 48th New York, commands Hamilton's Battery, on Bird Island, and Lieut. Col. Barton of the same regiment, is in command of Fort Vulcan.

Capt. Collins of the Unadilla, is in command of our naval force in that quarter.

THE VERY LATEST.

New York papers of the 5th and 6th, brought by the Flora, contain the official reports of the occupation of Columbus by our forces. Great quantities of guns, ammunition and other stores, fell into our hands; the Rebels are said to have withdrawn to Island No. 10 in the Mississippi River, about fifty miles further down. Previous to evacuating Columbus they made every attempt to destroy the works and stores, but were unable to complete the devastation. They set fire to the town.

Despatches from Richmond, via Norfolk, as well as news we get through the loyal newspapers inform us that the capital of the Rebel dominion has been placed under martial law; the Hon. John M. Botts and twenty other influential and wealthy citizens have been arrested for treason, (which means loyalty), and the riotous demonstrations of Union sentiment continue. All over the walls of houses are placarded announcements that "The Day of Deliverance is at Hand"; "Wait a Little Longer," and similar significant expressions.

The Charleston Courier of the 10th reports an important engagement in Hampton Roads. According to this Rebel authority, the Merrimac was gotten out of Norfolk harbor, and ventured out in the teeth of the Minnesota and one or two gunboats lying near Fortress Monroe. The Minnesota of course resisted the attempted passage, and a general fight began. The batteries at Newport News and on Sewall's Point all opened fire, several gunboats came out from Norfolk, and the Ericsson floating battery was called into play. The Rebels call the action a brilliant one, and speak of riddling the Minnesota; but we all know what their boasting means, and how important it is to them at this juncture to infuse a little confidence into their unreliable masses. The result of the matter is that the Merrimac was driven back according to their own story, after two days fighting. We have no account of the matter as yet from loyal sources. The occurrence took place on the 8th and 9th inst. Capt. Van Brunt, of Massachusetts, commands the Minnesota.

The Flower of Liberty.

BY OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

What flower is this that greets the morn,
Its hues from Heaven so freshly born?
With burning star and flaming brand
It kindles all the sunset land;
O, tell us what its name may be!
Is this the Flower of Liberty?
It is the banner of the free,
The starry Flower of Liberty!

In savage nature's far abode
Its tender seed our fathers sowed:
The storm-winds rocked its swelling bud,
Its opening leaves were streaked with blood,
Till, lo! earth's tyrants shook to see
The fullblown Flower of Liberty!
Then hail the banner of the free,
The starry Flower of Liberty!

Behold its streaming rays unite
One mingling flood of braided light—
The red that fires the Southern rose,
With spotless white from Northern snows,
And, spangled o'er its azure, see
The sister Stars of Liberty!
Then hail the banner of the free,
The starry Flower of Liberty!

The blades of heroes fence it round;
Where'er it springs is holy ground;
From tower and dome its glories spread;
It waves where lonely sentries tread;
It makes the land as ocean free,
And plants an empire on the sea!
Then hail the banner of the free,
The starry Flower of Liberty!

Thy sacred leaves, fair freedom's flower,
Shall ever float on dome and tower,
To all their heavenly colors true,
In blackening frost or crimson dew;
And God love us as we love thee,
Thrice holy Flower of Liberty!
Then hail the banner of the free,
The starry Flower of Liberty!